of these points, I have to say it has been very interesting working with them and I appreciate the good faith that they have put forth.

Mr. President, I would like to change the subject if I can. Hopefully that will end the debate. As soon as we can, I would like to wrap up and let everybody go for the day.

I understand Senator MURKOWSKI will be coming over. I assure the other side we are not going to talk any more on this, unless Senator MURKOWSKI is. I do not know. But if he is, it will only be another statement or so.

JUDICIARY HEARING ON THE EVENTS IN TENNESSEE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I informed everybody that I was going to make a statement on the Tennessee situation.

Mr. President, ours is a Nation of laws. We are a Nation that guarantees liberty and justice to all people. Our Nation is only as strong as our commitment to justice is strong. When the public's faith in the arm of Government responsible for safeguarding our liberty and our democratic Government is threatened, then we have to do something about it.

So I rise to announce that 1 week from today, on Friday of next week, the Senate Judiciary Committee will convene a hearing on the appalling events which took place in Tennessee, the so-called ''Good Ol' Boys Roundup.''

If newspaper reports are accurate, several Federal law enforcement agents from among other agencies, the ATF, FBI, DEA, Secret Service, and Customs participated in a so-called Good Ol' Boys Roundup, an event that is alleged to have involved hateful, racist, ugly conduct.

After consultation with the Judiciary Committee's ranking member, Senator BIDEN, and fellow committee members—especially Senator THOMPSON, who wants to make sure the great State of Tennessee plays a role in resolving this matter—I have decided it would be best for the Senate to move expeditiously on this matter.

Accordingly, I have informed the Directors of the ATF, FBI, and Deputy Attorney General Gorelick—I have personally informed them of my plan to hold a hearing next Friday. Witnesses I plan to call include the Attorney General of the United States, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Directors of the FBI, ATF, DEA, and others. I can only express my outrage and anger that Federal law enforcement officials would allow themselves to be compromised in such a way, and to participate in such conduct. I am sure that the Clinton administration officials that I have mentioned share my contempt for what has gone on. I expect this hearing will provide the American people with an opportunity to hear from our top law enforcement leaders, the plans they have to root out this racism.

Those who engaged in this conduct, who have stood by, knowing of it, and did nothing, must be held accountable. When a person who is clothed with the authority of the people engages in hateful conduct, that conduct must be condemned by the people. I condemn this conduct. The Senate condemns it.

This hearing will, hopefully, provide the American people with an explanation, detailing what the Clinton administration plans to do about it.

Attorney General Reno, Director Louis Freeh, and others have made great strides in improving the efficiency, fairness, and operation of our law enforcement agencies. These acts of prejudice, if true, and I have been led to believe that many of them are true, threaten to undermine the strides they have made to date.

It is in their interests, the interests of African Americans and other people of color, and the public, that we hold these hearings. In fact, it is in the interest of all Americans that we hold these hearings.

We must not stand by while Government officials betray the public's trust. These events, if true, disgraced Federal law enforcement and the United States. It is Congress' obligation. After all, I have to say all of us are directly accountable to the people. But it is Congress' obligation to hold the executive branch accountable. And I intend to do so.

Now, I have to say in conclusion that these leaders have all expressed a desire to clear up this matter and to stop it and to make sure that this never happens again. These are fine people who lead these organizations. They have made strides in some of these areas and I want to continue those strides and we want to stop this type of offensive, racist, despicable conduct now and we intend to do so, and we hope these hearings will be efficacious in helping us to get there. Having said that, we look forward to those hearings next Friday and I hope all of our Judiciary members will be able to participate.

I see the Senator from Alaska is here.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

COMPREHENSIVE REGULATORY REFORM ACT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I thank my friend from Utah and wish the Chair a good day. I know it is late in the afternoon. I just wanted to make a few remarks with regard to the status of our regulatory reform debate that has been going on for an extended period of time.

There is no question, Mr. President, that we all want to see regulatory reform legislation passed by this Congress for two very, very important reasons. They are simply fairness and common sense.

As chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, we passed out a bill that would accomplish fairness and common sense, and in so doing address corrections needed in our regulatory process. We passed a bill that was easily understood. And, as a consequence, we find ourselves immersed now in almost a legal discussion of various types of binding conditions associated with what was generally understood to be a high degree of frustration among the public, a public which was frustrated over policies of the Environmental Protection Agency such as the one that occurred in the largest city of Alaska, Anchorage, AK, where the city was notified that the water that accumulated after rains in the drains that ordinarily went out in Cook Inlet for disposal. Cook Inlet has some 30-foot tides twice a day.

Suddenly, the city was advised that they were in violation because, prior to discharging that water, 30 percent of the organic matter had to be removed. In testing the water they found there was no organic matter to be removed, and they appealed to the Environmental Protection Agency. Surprisingly enough, the EPA simply came back and said, ''You are out of compliance and subject to fine.'' As a consequence, some enterprising member of the city council suggested that they add some fish guts to the drainage system so that they would have something to remove that was organic and, therefore, comply.

Finally, the issue got so much publicity, Mr. President, that the Environmental Protection Agency saw fit to, so-called, ''clean their skirts.'' So they wrote a letter saying, ''Yes, these were the circumstances, but they did not make the city of Anchorage put the organic matter, the fish guts, into the water system.'' People of Alaska understood that. They understood the lack of sense that such a mandate made.

We have these horror stories. We have heard them on the floor.

Another concern that was expressed from time to time was the realization that citizens will not be asked to pay huge amounts of money to have trace amounts of arsenic or radon or chloroform removed from their drinking water when there was absolutely no evidence of any adverse health affects, no scientific proof of any kind.

We heard cases where workers who have rushed to rescue a colleague from a collapsed ditch are subject to fines, subject to penalties for not having a hard hat on in the first place.

We had a situation in Fairbanks—where it does snow occasionally in Fairbanks, AK—where the city was in violation of a wetland permit because they moved the snow off one lot where the city barn is to the next lot which was classified as a wetlands.

These are things people understand. These are issues of frustration that